

Message

From: Melgin, Wendy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DBBB28DF2BDC444AB12EEACF50AD616B-WMELGIN]
Sent: 11/1/2016 8:42:54 PM
To: Westlake, Kenneth [westlake.kenneth@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Summary of monthly cooperating agencies call with co-lead agencies on the NorthMet Mine project

Thanks Ken.

From: Westlake, Kenneth
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2016 3:40 PM
To: Sedlacek, Michael <Sedlacek.Michael@epa.gov>; Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>; Wester, Barbara <wester.barbara@epa.gov>; Kenney, Thomas <kenney.thomas@epa.gov>; Pierard, Kevin <pierard.kevin@epa.gov>; Holst, Linda <holst.linda@epa.gov>; Melgin, Wendy <melgin.wendy@epa.gov>
Cc: Marko, Katharine <Marko.Katharine@epa.gov>; Poleck, Thomas <poleck.thomas@epa.gov>; McKim, Krista <mckim.krista@epa.gov>; Burdick, Melanie <Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov>
Subject: Summary of monthly cooperating agencies call with co-lead agencies on the NorthMet Mine project

On today's monthly call with the co-lead and cooperating agencies, the Forest Service reported that version 5 of the NHPA Memo of Agreement is being refined, reacting to comments from the Minnesota State Historical Preservation Office. The tribes (Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, and Grand Portage) asked for the most recent version immediately (they haven't received it yet) and requested a call or meeting to discuss this latest version once they have received it. USFS staff will discuss a game plan for completion of the NHPA process and reply to the tribes. In response to my question, USFS estimates that the NHPA process could be completed with a signed MOA within a few weeks to a month. They reiterated that the USFS's ROD on the land exchange cannot be signed until the NHPA process is completed. The tribes noted that three of the four cultural resources sites covered by the MOA are highly important to the tribes.

The Corps continues to work on its draft ROD, with 11/4/16 being a deadline for internal review on portions of its draft ROD. The Corps ROD will not be issued until all state permit decisions are made. The report evaluating Modflow modeling, which was prepared by the Corps Philadelphia District groundwater center of expertise, has been shared with the tribes, including GLIFWC, and with MDNR and MPCA. The review by the Philadelphia District was aimed at answering the question of whether the groundwater modeling was adequate for the Corps' NEPA purposes. The Corps is meeting on 11/3 with EPA and MPCA. The USFS ROD will reference the Corps Modflow report. Internal to the Corps St. Paul District, Steve Eggers is reviewing Ralph Augustin's proposed approach for upfront preconstruction mitigation for indirect impacts to wetlands. That internal review should happen "soon,"

Ken Westlake